

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 5, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: September 4, 2003 (2145)

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

- *Myrtle Creek - Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) has been ordered – 610 acres, 30% contained, 5 miles WNW of Bonners Ferry, Idaho.*
- *Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*
 - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 22,263 acres, 4% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell, MT.*
 - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 7,598 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
 - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 51,201 acres, 81% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 20,434 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Weldon) - 12,639 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Weldon). This 31,746 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives.*
 - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 52,648 acres, 70% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,107 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
 - *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,200 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*
 - *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 35,613 acres, 50% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula. Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) will assume command 9/05 at 0600.*

- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 24,880 acres, 58% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 23,716 acres, 70% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.*
- *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*
- *Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 37,812 acres, 75% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Cathedral Peak – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 2,778 acres, 33% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.*
- *Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (VanBruggen) – 3,010 acres, 92% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.*
- *Winslow – 13,438 acres, 60% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.*
- *Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 24,495 acres, 60% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*
- *Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 2,930 acres, 95% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.*
- *Rough Draw Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gray) – 3,500 acres, 85% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.*
- *Cherry Creek Complex – 4,088 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls. The Cherry Creek fire of this complex will remain 85% contained until a significant change in weather occurs. This will be the last report.*
- *East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*
- *Mollman – 260 acres, 70% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan.*

B. Initial Attack *Minimal initial attack - 5 new fires 12,826 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana
STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
500 AM MDT FRI SEP 5 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Slight Chance Of Afternoon Showers And Thunderstorms In The South. Highs 80 To 90.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Slight Chance Of Evening Showers And Thunderstorms In The South. Lows 42 To 52.

Saturday - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Slight Chance Of Afternoon Showers And Thunderstorms In The South. Highs 79 To 89.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Upper 70s To Lower 90s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The Upper 40s To Mid 50s.

Saturday - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms. Highs In The Upper 70s To Upper 80s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Lows In The Lower 40s To Lower 50s.

Saturday - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today - Mostly Sunny...Except Partly Cloudy Extreme Southwest With A Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms. Highs In The Lower To Middle 90s... Upper 60s And 70s Mountains.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. A Chance Of Thunderstorms Southwest. Lows In The Middle To Upper 50s...30s And 40s Mountains.

Saturday - Partly Cloudy. A Chance Of Thunderstorms West. Highs In The Lower To Middle 90s...60s And 70s Mountains.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Sanders	Chouteau	Missoula
Glacier	Teton	Jefferson	Pondera
Lake	Broadwater	Meagher	Powell
Lewis& Clark	Cascade	Mineral	Toole
Lincoln			

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Current Montana National Guard Resources		
Montana Army Guard	EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard

NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	68 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		6 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		18 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		4 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO	
		3 CUCV	
		1 One Ton	
225 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	127 HVY Equipment	209 Airmen Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
Northwest Area Command
Missoula Area Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures

For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc